

# College/Community Committee Meeting Minutes

**April 17, 2014**

IN ATTENDANCE: Committee members: Chairman Robert Krummerich, Kyle Leinbach and Scot Pitzer. Others present included: Borough Secretary Sara Stull; Planning Director Scott Dellett; Michael Birkner, president of Borough Council; Gettysburg College Representatives: Patti Lawson, Associate Vice President Government & Community Relations; Bill Lafferty, Associate Dean of College Life and Executive Director of Public Safety; Peter North, Director of Auxiliary Services and Life Safety Manager; Jim Biesecker, Director of Facilities Planning and Management; and Keira Kant, Residential Life; Donald Marritz, 61 East Broadway; Peggy Gustafson, 429 Carlisle Street and Jim Hale representing the Gettysburg Times.

## Public Comment:

Donald Marritz expressed his concern with the problems that he and his neighbors have experienced over the years with College students living in the neighborhood. He said that he has lived on Broadway 25 years, and that the number of students living in his neighborhood has increased over the years. Donald Marritz pointed out that there are issues regarding noise and trash at 42, 44 and 46 East Lincoln Avenue. He is interested in the Regulated Rental Unit Ordinance (RRUO) enforcement because he feels that there are code violations. He is concerned about the public safety and the welfare of the Borough residents.

Mr. Marritz also expressed his concern again about the fire in his neighborhood where College students were burning mattresses. He was disappointed that there was none or very little help by the police department, noting that Officer Larry Weikert's report wasn't a thorough report of the incident. Donald said that he spoke to Chief Dougherty to express his concerns. He also said that he was disappointed that a disruptive conduct complaint was never filed by the Code Enforcement Officer.

Bob Krummerich asked if any citizens called the police to report problems, and also asked if the College's Department of Public Safety (DPS) can respond to these incidents. Keira Kant said that DPS cannot respond to these issues when the houses are not owned or leased by the College. Mr. Marritz responded that citizens do contact the police, but that this is constant and that they can't call all the time. He pointed out that when he called to report the mattress fire, the police never contacted him or his neighbors regarding this incident. Scot Pitzer pointed out that the police are short staffed.

Bob Krummerich asked if there has been a problem with noise due to groups of students walking to and from parties. Mr. Marritz responded that sometimes that is the case, but that students sometimes sit in the yard and drink and then they get loud. He noted that if this occurs at night he will contact the police, but if it happens during the day he will talk to the students and ask them to keep the noise down. Mr. Marritz said that another resident, Robin Wagner across the street from him on East Broadway has also complained to him about the loud noise.

Mr. Marritz said that he has been working with Keira Kant regarding issues, and that she has been very helpful. Mr. Krummerich said that he will follow up with Chief Dougherty for an update. Scot will contact Aubrey Burkholder, Code Enforcement Officer, for an update regarding complaints. Peter North said that some landlords are still not complying with the RRUO Ordinance.

Patti Lawson asked if there is a number to how many people are permitted in a public space, or if there is a fire code issue. Peggy Gustafson responded that there is a specific number allowed according to the ordinance.

Donald Marritz pointed out that 10-15 cars parked at 42 E. Lincoln Avenue are too many. He noted that the Borough Ordinance states sufficient parking without moving vehicles to get out. Michael Birkner said that this is a Code Enforcement issue that should be investigated.

Bob Krummerich asked if the students are subject to demerits if they cause problems. Peter North responded that the landlords must be in compliance with the RRUO, not the students, but noted that the landlord could lose their RRUO license, which would then affect the students. Keira Kant said that she receives copies of complaints filed by the Code Enforcement Officer.

Michael Birkner asked Keira Kant if she met with students at the beginning of the year as has been done in the past. Ms. Kant responded yes. She said that they need to connect students with neighbors and will continue working on this over the summer.

Peggy Gustafson asked if the College request student's names that are roommates, noting that there are four non-related people permitted in a rental unit. Keira Kant responded yes that the students list their roommates so the information can be verified.

Mrs. Gustafson pointed out that 44 E Lincoln Avenue has the garage filled with furniture. Mr. Marritz also said that this is the property that had the mattress fire. He said that this is a party house.

#### Keira Kant, Residential Life - Theme & Spark Houses

Keira Kant presented the committee with a handout explaining the Theme and Spark Houses. The locations of these houses are on Carlisle Street, North Washington Street and on campus. The Spark Houses serve as social and intellectual hubs for students, faculty, and staff. The Theme Houses provide an opportunity for students who share a common interest to live together. A copy of the handout is attached. Ms. Kant said that these are all College properties and that they maintain them. Bob Krummerich asked how long the College had these Theme Houses. Keira Kant responded fifteen years.

#### Jim Biesecker - Construction update

Jim Biesecker reported that Gladfelter Hall's renovation is on schedule, and that it should be completed by the end of June. The faculty and classrooms will be moved in July and completed by August when College resumes. Michael Birkner asked if there

are any large projects scheduled over the summer break. Jim Biesecker responded no. He said that they will be expanding the home team locker room at the stadium, completing a storm water management project and sidewalks on campus that need to be repaired.

Mr. Biesecker reported that the "Give it up for Good" sale is scheduled for May 24 and that proceeds support the United Way. He said that last year was the 10th anniversary, raising \$155,000 to date.

Ms. Lawson asked how many tons were donated since they began this event. Mr. Biesecker responded 230 tons. Mrs. Gustafson inquired if other residents have items could the College pick them up for the event. It was noted that the borough's trash and recycle hauler will collect a large item per weekly pick up per customer.

Bob Krummerich asked that the College contact the police department to inform them of large events planned such as the soccer camp. Mr. Lafferty said that is being done. Peter North noted some of the upcoming events that are scheduled are: 4th of July fireworks and concert, Brass Band on July 3rd and other groups on July 4th.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 25, 2014 at 5:00 PM.

The committee adjourned the meeting at 6:10 PM.

Robert Krummerich, Committee Chair